



Year 3/4 Team Parent Newsletter - Term 1 2018

Dear Year 3/4 Parents & Carers,

We've only been back for just over three weeks but the Year 3/4 teaching team has been impressed with the students' seamless adjustment back into the routines of school. In this Year 3/4 newsletter, we intend to provide a summary of the Term One happenings and some details about the remainder of the term. This year the middle team consists of Warren Hales, Alanna Maguire, Emma Govan and Mat Williamson. We are excited to be working alongside one another as a middle unit team again in 2018 and look forward to the term ahead.

At Newport Lakes Primary School we have a one hour reading, writing and mathematics session each day. Our four specialists and Science, Health and Inquiry make up the very busy school week.

Literacy

The structure of literacy lessons are consistent across the school. In Reading the students will be working on a particular focus for the week. They will be told what the reading focus is and then they will work on developing their proficiency and understanding of that focus. Students will be working in a variety of group situations such as reciprocal teaching groups, reading with a buddy as well as working one on one with the teacher. With teacher guidance, the students will set goals for their learning and reflect on their understanding of the task. The teachers will be working with the students to develop their comprehension and understanding of the texts they are reading.

We have high expectations of the students and will work on developing their independence within the Reading session. Our goal is to improve student comprehension and develop a lifelong love of reading.

We will continue to have daily Writing sessions that have a clear focus. They will follow a similar structure to reading where a writing focus is discussed and modelled. Students then practice the skill in their work. We will continue to use our Writer's Notebooks as a source of inspiration and ideas as well as a place to enjoy writing without constraints. We will have explicit teaching sessions that focus on the structure of various text types such as information reports, narratives and persuasive writing as well as poetry. The structure will be examined and the language common to the text will be explored. Students once again will work both independently and in small cooperative groups where they are encouraged to support each other by giving and receiving feedback to improve their writing.

Word Study: Each week, we will continue to focus on investigating a spelling/sound pattern or other language conventions. Students will shortly begin to bring home a series of words to be reviewed at home. These words will be selected on a 'needs' basis in small groups to assist your child to build up their phonemic awareness.

New words will be selected each week and they will be reviewed the following week. Please encourage/ assist your child to practise these words. Each week your child will be given the opportunity to define/ review or play games with these words as part of their homework tasks.

Numeracy

In Mathematics the students will work on developing their mathematical understandings on a variety of topics. They will work independently and in small groups on a range of activities that will support and challenge their learning. The mathematics sessions will continue to follow the structure that they are familiar with including a warm up, introduction, independent or small group work and a share time where the students discuss their learning. Topics to be covered this term are:

Calendars and timetables

Number/Place Value

Addition/Subtraction

Financial Maths

Chance and Data

2D and 3D Shape

The students in the middle school should continue to work on their number facts at home ensuring they are developing their speed and accuracy in automatic response and understanding of place value. Some iPad apps that will support this include Sumdog (Free), iTooch Elementary School App (Free), and the Targeting Maths series (\$9.99), which has a huge range of activities that make learning maths skills fun, motivating and full of rewards and. Other Mathematics apps are available upon request.

Inquiry - What lives here and how?

At Newport Lakes Primary School, students take part in two or more, one-hour Inquiry lessons each week. Inquiry teaching and learning encourages the students to ask questions and search for meaning. The inquiry process activates thinking on many levels and in many forms which encourages students to think about the world around them in order to make meaning. Students will begin the term learning about key inquiry skills of thinking, evaluating, collaborating, negotiating, self-management, time-management, research and communication. In doing this, setting the students up for their inquiry learning during the term and year.

During Term 1 students will be focusing on the topic of decision making with a focus on the Victorian Curriculum domain of Science. During this topic students will investigate how to classify living things based on observable features and distinguish them from non-living things. They describe relationships that assist the survival of living things and compare the key stages in the life cycle of a plant and an animal and relate life cycles to growth and survival.

During this term students will consider the following key understandings:

- The survival of living things is dependent on different relationships and actions
- People make different choices based on what they value.
- How you can take action to protect places, animals and environments.
- Life cycles of an animal or a plant are related to its growth and survival.

Homework

In Year 3/4 the homework expectations for our students are:

- 30 minutes of reading at least 3 times per week
- Practising spelling words
- Maths number facts (maths tasks will be included on the weekly homework sheet)
- Practising times tables (from term 2 onwards)
- Other project assignments that may be handed out throughout the year

Homework will be given out from week 4 onwards.

School Bags

Please encourage your child to check that they have their homework book in their school bag each morning to bring to school.

Class Blogs

Each of the Year 3/4 classes will have their own class blog. The blogs will provide an insight into learning activities happening in and outside of the classroom, as well as in the Specialist areas. You will find our blogs at the following URLs:

3/4W - <http://34w2018.edublogs.org/>

3/4G - <http://nlps34g2018.edublogs.org/>

3/4M - <http://34m2018.global2.vic.edu.au/>

3/4H - <http://34h2018.edublogs.org/>